



CITRUS MAY FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

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ALL ORANGES 168.5 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board remains at 168.5 million boxes. Comprising the total are 83.5 million boxes of the early-midseason-Navel varieties (including Temples) and 85.0 million boxes of the later maturing Valencia oranges. If achieved, this forecast will be the most produced since the 242.0 million boxes in 2003-04, prior to the two hurricane seasons. The May forecast has deviated from final production by an average of 1.3 percent in the past 10 non-hurricane seasons. During that period, five forecasts were above and five were below the actual production. The monthly Row Count survey, conducted April 30 - May 1, 2008, showed 73 percent of the rows visited to be harvested. At this level of completion, it is a good indicator and supports the current forecast.

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVELS 83.5 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of early-midseason-Navel oranges (including Temples) is final at 83.5 million boxes. Report No. 30 from the Citrus Administrative Committee shows estimated certifications for the week ending May 4 totaled fewer than 10,000 boxes. Fresh and processed utilization plus an allocation for non-certified gift fruit equal the current forecast. This forecast is greater than the actual production in any of the

CITRUS PRODUCTION: MAY 1, 2008

Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Apr 9, 2008	May 9, 2008
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA^{1/}	75,000	65,600	83,500	83,500
California	47,000	34,500	49,500	49,500
Texas	1,400	1,600	1,400	1,400
Arizona	250	200	250	250
Total Above Varieties	123,650	101,900	134,650	134,650
VALENCIAS:				
FLORIDA	72,700	63,400	85,000	85,000
California	13,500	11,500	16,000	16,000
Texas	200	380	388	388
Arizona	200	100	100	100
Total Valencias	86,600	75,380	101,488	101,488
ALL ORANGES:				
FLORIDA	147,700	129,000	168,500	168,500
California	61,500	46,000	65,500	65,500
Texas	1,600	1,980	1,788	1,788
Arizona	450	300	350	350
Total All Oranges	210,250	177,280	236,138	236,138

^{1/} Includes Temples beginning in 2006-07. Historic Temple production on page 2.

FORECAST DATES — 2007-08 SEASON

June 10, 2008

July 11, 2008

past three seasons. The **Navel** portion of the crop is final at 3.0 million boxes.

VALENCIAS 85.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia oranges remains at 85.0 million boxes. Although the results of last month's size and drop surveys are considered final, additional surveys were conducted in April. Fruit size continues to be smaller than the minimum of the past 10 seasons and is the fourth smallest on record for a non-freeze season in a series dating back to the 1960-61 season. The rate of drop accelerated during the past month placing this measurement between the average and maximum for the past 10 non-hurricane seasons. The monthly route survey shows harvest to be nearing the halfway mark with weekly certifications of about 6.0 million boxes.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE MAY FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
ORANGES:				
Early-mid	24,473	1,052	8	264
Navel	1,284	440	10	138
Valencia	33,835	679	15	221

^{1/} Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, and April for Valencias.

FCOJ YIELD 1.65 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange projection of FCOJ yield at 42° Brix is increased from 1.63 to 1.65 gallons per box, surpassing last season's record 1.64668 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion, final at 1.55335 gallons per box, is slightly below last season and third highest as reported by the Florida Department of Citrus. The record of 1.58414 gallons per box for early-midseason fruit occurred in the 1998-99 season. The projection of the Valencia portion is increased from 1.73 gallons per box to 1.76, second only to last season's record 1.77415 gallons per box.

GRAPEFRUIT RAISED TO 26.3 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all grapefruit for utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is increased from 24.5 to 26.3 million boxes. The forecast includes 9.0 million boxes of **white** and 17.3 million boxes of **colored** grapefruit. This forecast, if realized, will be only three percent less than harvested last season.

The basis for raising the forecast is the relationship between the estimated utilization, as reported by the Citrus Administrative Committee, and the percentage of rows harvested, as identified by the Row Count survey. Weekly utilization throughout the month of April declined slightly but averaged over 1.1 million boxes per week. The Row Count survey, conducted April 30 - May 1, showed 94 percent of the rows harvested. As of May 1, the majority of grapefruit remaining to be harvested is in the Indian River District.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is raised from 7.5 to 9.0 million boxes. Utilization to the first of the month, including an allocation for other use, is 8.4 million boxes. The Row Count survey showed over 10 percent rows of white grapefruit remaining for harvest. The white grapefruit harvest has primarily been for the processed market.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is adjusted upward to 17.3 million boxes. Estimated utilization to May 1, including an allocation for other use, is 16.9 million boxes. Colored grapefruit utilization remained strong

CITRUS PRODUCTION: May 1, 2008
forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2005-06	2006-07	Apr 9, 2008	May 9, 2008
	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	19,300	27,200	24,500	26,300
White	6,500	9,300	7,500	9,000
Colored	12,800	17,900	17,000	17,300
California	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,000
Texas	5,200	7,100	6,400	6,400
Arizona	100	100	150	150
Total Grapefruit	30,600	39,900	36,050	37,850
LEMONS:				
California	21,000	18,500	17,000	17,000
Arizona	3,800	2,500	1,500	1,500
Total Lemons	24,800	21,000	18,500	18,500
TEMPLES:	700	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}
TANGELOS: Florida	1,400	1,250	1,500	1,500
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	5,500	4,600	4,800	5,300
Early ^{2/}	2,850	2,400	2,600	2,600
Honey	2,650	2,200	2,200	2,700
California ^{3/}	3,600	3,500	5,100	5,100
Arizona ^{3/}	550	300	400	400
Total Tangerines	9,650	8,400	10,300	10,800

^{1/} Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

^{2/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{3/} Includes tangelos and tangors.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE MAY FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White ^{2/}	1,862	557	18	99
Colored	4,155	499	12	109

^{1/} January data is considered final.

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

throughout the month of April at over 500,000 boxes per week. The Row Count survey showed less than four percent of the rows left to be harvested, indicating a lesser availability in the next couple of weeks. Almost equal amounts of colored grapefruit have gone into fresh shipments as have been processed.

The majority of processing plants receiving grapefruit are expected to close within the first two weeks of May. This confirms that grapefruit availability is becoming scarce and harvest is nearing completion.

ALL TANGERINES 5.3 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is raised to 5.3 million boxes. The early tangerines are final at 2.6 million boxes. The change is in the later Honey tangerines, now at 2.7 million boxes.

Harvest of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) is final at 2.6 million boxes, including an allocation of 200,000 boxes for non-certified use. **Fallglo** comprised 650,000 boxes of the category, up three percent from 630,000 boxes last season. **Sunburst** accounted for three-fourths of the total at 1.95 million boxes.

The forecast of the later maturing **Honey** variety is raised from 2.2 million boxes to 2.7 million boxes. This season is the first on record where the processed quantity nearly equals the amount sold fresh. The primary reason is that the small sizes were not as useful for the fresh market. Harvest throughout the month of April was steady at over 150,000 boxes weekly. Results of the Row Count survey showed 86 percent of the rows harvested. Typically, harvest of Honey tangerines comes to an end toward the middle to the last week in May. It is expected that the trend will continue this season.

TANGELOS 1.5 MILLION BOXES

The tangelo forecast is final at 1.5 million boxes, including an allocation for non-certified use. The first week of April was the last week certifications were recorded. The majority of tangelos were processed with only 30 percent sold as fresh this season.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

Late (69-90)

Oct 1	2.53	2.66	8.98	9.50	3.57	3.61	45.55	44.00	4.09	4.17
Nov 1	2.08	2.00	9.90	9.28	4.82	4.71	48.63	49.23	4.82	4.57
Dec 1	1.73	1.76	9.91	10.11	5.79	5.81	52.19	52.08	5.17	5.26
Jan 1	1.43	1.39	10.87	11.15	7.69	8.09	52.76	53.56	5.74	5.97
Feb 1	1.22	1.28	11.99	12.01	9.92	9.50	54.94	54.58	6.59	6.55
Mar 1	1.13	1.17	12.59	12.62	11.19	10.87	54.83	54.99	6.91	6.94
Apr 1	1.10	1.03	13.27	13.01	12.18	12.76	54.24	55.07	7.20	7.16
May 1	0.93	0.92	13.62	13.46	14.92	14.87	55.00	55.37	7.49	7.45

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

MATURITY TEST AVERAGES BY AREAS, MAY 1, 2008

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per	Solids per box
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>

ORANGES:

Late

Indian River District	20	0.94	13.75	14.68	56.23	7.73
Other Areas	70	0.91	13.38	14.92	55.12	7.37

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the April size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all years.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from April measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2006	2007	2008
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--- Percent ---

VALENCIA ORANGES:

64 and larger	4.0	14.4	6.3
80	13.2	30.1	19.2
100	32.4	31.7	34.7
125	30.4	17.1	26.5
163 and smaller	20.0	6.7	13.3

The chart to the right describes the relationship of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from April measurements

